

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

SUPERINTENDENT

Copy from

FILE 143

MONTHLY REPORT

FOR

M A Y,

1919.



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

THE SUPERINTENDENT

June 10, 1919.

The Director,  
National Park Service,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit my report of conditions in the park for the month of May, 1919:

#### GENERAL STATEMENT.

The Yellowstone National Park was set aside by Act of Congress March 1, 1872, (Secs. 2474 and 2475, R. S., 17 Stat., 32) as a pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people, and placed under the control of the Secretary of the Interior, who was authorized to make such rules and regulations as he deems necessary for the care and maintenance of the park. It is situated principally in northwestern Wyoming, but laps over a little more than two miles into Montana on the north, and about two miles into Montana and Idaho on the west. Its dimensions are about 62 miles north and south, and about 54 miles east and west, giving an area of about 3,346 square miles, or 2,142,720 acres. Its altitude is 6,000 to 11,000 feet.

The park was governed by civilian superintendents, assisted by a few scouts, from the time it was set aside until August 10, 1896, when, under authority contained in the Sundry Civil Act, approved March 3, 1893, at the request of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of War detailed troops of United States Cavalry to protect it, the commanding officer acting as park superintendent and reporting directly to the Secretary of the Interior. Troops were withdrawn from the park on October 16, 1916, and were returned on June 26, 1917. By the sundry civil act of July 1, 1918, Congress provided for a force of civilian rangers to protect the park. The troops were permanently withdrawn and the post of Fort Yellowstone was formally abandoned on November 1, 1918. The same act of Congress which appropriated funds for protection of the park

also placed the appropriations for maintenance and improvement under the Secretary of the Interior, instead of under the Secretary of War, as heretofore, and permitted the combining of all work under this office.

The local office of the U. S. Weather Bureau, Department of Agriculture, is in charge of Mr. G. E. Lawton, Observer; temperature and precipitation records are also made by the rangers at several of the stations, for the Weather Bureau.

The United States Department of Justice is represented by Mr. John W. Meldrum, United States Commissioner, who is authorized to try all violators of park rules, regulations or laws. Mr. Meldrum has been away on leave since January 21st.

Park headquarters for all departments and most of the concessioners is located at Mammoth Hot Springs. 269 miles of telephone line connect headquarters with sub-stations. A hydro-electric power plant furnishes the light for buildings and grounds at headquarters. Water, electric current, and telephone service are furnished other departments of the Government in the park by the National Park Service, without charge. During May the hydro-electric power plant was run daily from 4:00 p.m. until noon, and was continued during the afternoon when any necessity existed for so doing.

#### CONDITIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY.

The mean temperature was 46.6, which was .3 below normal. The total precipitation according to the weather reports was 1.29 inches of water, which is 0.62 inch less than the normal amount for May. Total snowfall for month, 5.6 inches.

A copy of the Monthly Meteorological Report is inclosed herewith.

#### EMPLOYEES.

Mr. George E. Goodwin, Civil Engineer, National Park Service, whose headquarters are in Yellowstone, left for Glacier Park and thence to the Pacific Coast on May 22nd, and he is still absent.

Mr. Chas. P. Punchard, Landscape Engineer, arrived May 26th for station.

The following-named regular employees were carried on the payrolls during the month of May:

- 1 Chief Clerk (Acting Superintendent)
- 1 Purchasing Clerk and Special Disbursing Agent
- 5 Clerks
- 1 Clerk, May 26th to 31st, inclusive
- 1 Assistant Engineer
- 1 Assistant Engineer, May 15th to 31st, inclusive
- 2 Electricians
- 1 Telegraph Operator, May 21st to 31st, inclusive
- 4 Assistant Chief Rangers
- 5 First-class Park Rangers
- 1 First-class Park Ranger, May 24th to 31st, inclusive
- 15 Park Rangers
- 1 Park Ranger, May 1st to 17th, inclusive
- 2 Linemen
- 1 Plumber
- 2 Telephone Switchboard Operators
- 3 Foremen
- 1 Blacksmith
- 1 Overseer
- 1 Foreman, May 5th to 31st, inclusive
- 1 Handyman
- 1 Laborer
- 1 Watchman, May 1st to 24th, inclusive.

In addition to these, one assistant electrician was employed, temporarily, to assist in operating the power plant, pending certification of eligibles for appointment by the Civil Service Commission; and several carpenters, gas-engine-men, chauffeurs, etc., were employed for temporary service to keep up the work of construction and maintenance at headquarters.

We have cooperated with the Labor Bureau in finding employment for discharged soldiers, but the fact that less have been sent here than asked for indicates that there is plenty of work for those anxious for it, in this part of the country.

First-class Park Ranger Peter Lawson was married to a young lady from Bozoman, Montana, on May 25th.

## DISTRIBUTION OF PARK RANGERS.

Assistant Chief Ranger James McBride (Acting Chief Ranger) directed the work of the ranger force. He also made trips of inspection and patrols by motorcycle to Soda Butte, Tower Falls, Buffalo Farm, Upper Geyser Basin, Yellowstone, Montana, the Canyon, and the Lake. He had charge of the moving of the automobile camp at Mammoth Hot Springs, and the remainder of the time he was on duty at the Chief Ranger's office.

Assistant Chief Ranger James I. Brooks was in charge of the southern section of the park. He patrolled from Sylvan Pass Station via the east and south boundary to Snake River Station, and thence to Bechler River Station. The last ten days of the month he was engaged in hauling supplies and repairing buildings at Bechler Station.

Assistant Chief Ranger Charles J. Smith was on duty in the Chief Ranger's office for the first ten days of the month. He made motorcycle patrols to Buffalo Farm and Tower Falls. During the balance of the month he worked with the crew tearing down the old auto camp, cleaning new auto camp, repairing buffalo corral fence, and hauling wood.

Assistant Chief Ranger Harry Trischman worked at headquarters during the entire month hauling wood for the new auto camp, tearing down the old auto camp, repairing the buffalo corral fence, and cleaning up around the old quartermaster corral. He made patrols to Gardiner twice during the month.

First-class Park Ranger B. C. Macombe was in charge of the buffalo farm. He reports cow herd in good condition. There were 62 calves up to May 23rd. One 3-year-old bull was crated and shipped to the State of Wyoming on May 23rd.

First-class Park Ranger Peter Lawson was in charge of Gallatin District. His patrols extended south to Grayling Creek and east to Sportsman's Lake.

First-class Park Ranger Thad C. Pound was in charge of Gardiner Station. He reports 251 registered visitors. He rendered much assistance in unloading TNT explosive.

First-class Park Ranger Roby Roy Wisdom was in charge of Lake Station. He made three trips to Sylvan Pass Station where he was cutting next winter's wood, and from where he patrolled to Jones Creek and Crow Creek.



Park Ranger Ford Purdy was in charge of Riverside Station. He reports 29 registered visitors. He made 12 patrols to west boundary line, 3 to Grayling Cabin, 1 to Gallatin, 1 to Upper Basin, and 1 to Mammoth. He built a cabin on Maple Creek, one mile east of the park line, on the north bank of stream. He also reports that the Taylor Fork Cattle Company drove 625 head of cattle from Grayling Creek to Gallatin entrance on the 21st and 22nd, under special permit.

Park Ranger Frank J. Winess was in charge of Bechler Station. He made two trips to the southwest corner of the park and vicinity, one trip to head of Rock Creek via southwest corner, one trip to south boundary via Wyoming Creek and Lone cabin, one trip to Boundary Creek via Fall River and Bechler River, and one trip to Ashton, total 103 miles covered. He also cleaned up around station and built a root cellar.

Park Ranger J. W. Eline was in charge of Snake River Station. He patrolled from station to Thumb, Moran, Wyoming, Arizona Cabin, and to the old ford on Snake River.

Park Ranger L. F. Cushman was engaged in cutting wood and improving and cleaning up Norris Ranger Station, digging two pits for toilets near station, and repairing telephone line. He patrolled during the month to Canyon, Lake, Upper Basin, and headquarters.

Park Ranger George Winn was in charge of Soda Butte Station. He patrolled the Cooke road to Tower Falls and to the 53-mile post on the east boundary, Pebble Creek to 71-mile post on north boundary, up Lamar River to Cache Creek, Cooke road to Devil's Well, Amphitheater Creek to the Thunierer Mountain, to Mammoth Hot Springs and Gardiner, and up Lamar River to 28-mile post on east boundary line. He was on patrols 217 hours, and covered 464 miles.

First-class Park Ranger Court B. Dowling patrolled to Crevico Station, Tower Falls Station, Soda Butte Station, Specimen Ridge, in the vicinity of Soda Butte Station; and hauled hay from Yancey's to Tower Falls. He worked five days at headquarters with cleaning-up crew, then getting ready to move, and moving, to the Fountain Station, where he will be in charge for the tourist season.

Park Ranger Joseph Douglas was stationed in the Gallatin District. He patrolled up the Sportsman's Lake Trail as far as he could go on horse, up Bacon Run, and to Grayling Cabin. He reports the Boundary Trail in good condition, but the Sportsman's Lake Trail is in bad shape. W

Park Ranger James A. Dupuis was in charge of Crevice Station. He made several patrols to Gardiner, and up Crevice Creek to its mouth; spent three days cutting wood; and moved from Crevice Station to headquarters where he worked until the 30th with the crew cleaning up, hauling wood, and moving the auto camp.

Park Ranger William Purdue was stationed in the southern district. From the 1st to the 10th he was engaged in cutting wood; the 11th, 12th, and 13th in making a trip to Moran for mail and supplies; the 14th to 20th cutting wood; the 21st to 30th building fence and irrigation ditch. On the 31st he started for Moran.

Park Ranger James Russell was stationed at Boehler River Station. He patrolled up Boundary Creek, Wyoming Creek, Mountain Ash Creek, Fall River, south boundary and west boundary, covering about 75 miles. During the last part of the month he worked on root house and cutting wood.

Park Ranger Fred J. Townsend made fourteen patrols from Riverside Station to west boundary line. He was engaged in cleaning around station on the 2nd, 9th, 18th, and 20th; in patrolling to Fountain Station on the 4th and 25th, to Gardiner and return on the 6th and 7th; in digging two toilet holes on the 22nd, back of the Yellowstone Checking station; in patrolling to Grayling Cabin and Maple Creek on the 11th and 27th, to Gallatin and return on the 31st, and to Upper Basin on the 30th. He worked on Maple Creek Cabin on the 11th, 12th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 23rd, and 31st.

Park Ranger Williamiggins made motorcycle patrols to Corwin Springs, Soda Butte, Buffalo Farm, Phelps Creek, Canyon, and several to Gardiner. He made and fixed stove pipe and water pipe for different stations, arranged a shop for motorcycles, and repaired motorcycles.

Park Ranger George T. Dustman patrolled from headquarters to Beaver Lake Cabin, Morris, Canyon, and the Lake by motorcycle. The balance of the the month he was on duty at the Chief Ranger's office as clerk.

First-class Park Ranger Raymond G. Little began work on May 24th. He helped load<sup>2</sup> buffalo on train, helped to repair fence around buffalo corral, to tear down old corral, and get ready to move to the Lake Station where he will be stationed.

Park Ranger Chester B. Kolley patrolled from Tower Falls Station to Gondo Creek, Ox Bow and Elk Creeks. His resignation took effect on the 17th.

Park Ranger A. L. McLaughlin was stationed in the Gardiner District. His patrols extended from station west to Reese Creek and east to Buffalo Flats.

Park Ranger Laurence Mazzanovich was at Lake Station. He made patrols as directed by Asst. Chief Ranger Brooks, and cleaned up around station.

Park Ranger Roy T. Frazier was stationed at Crevice Station. He worked on cutting wood for five days at the station. He patrolled from headquarters to buffalo farm twice during the month, worked around headquarters for several days, moved to Tower Falls station from where he patrolled to Tower Creek, Yancey's, to Mammoth Hot Springs, up Yellowstone River 11 miles, and up Slough Creek to the park line.

Other permanent employees were on duty at headquarters, maintaining office and storehouse, shops, telephone lines, power plant, buildings, water and sewer systems, etc.; and others were engaged in engineering and improvement work: remodeling buildings at headquarters, construction, etc., under the direction of Civil Engineer Goodwin.

Leaves of absence: The following leaves of absence were granted during the month of May, 1919:

Clerk Jacob P. Bower, May 5th to 11th, inclusive,  
6 days.

Foreman Bert L. Stinnott, May 14th to 26th, inclusive,  
11 days.

Appointments: The following appointments became effective during the month:

George T. Dustman, Park Ranger, \$1200 per annum, effective May 1st.



Ralph L. Shultz, Telephone Switchboard Operator, \$900 per annum, effective May 12th, by change from temporary to permanent.

Miss Nellie Roach, Telephone Switchboard Operator, \$900 per annum, effective May 12th, by change from temporary to permanent.

Robert L. Filtzer, Assistant Engineer, \$1500 per annum, effective May 15th.

Nathan E. Sandel, Telegraph Operator, \$1200 per annum, effective May 21st.

Clarence O. Laner, Clerk, \$1440 per annum, effective May 26th.

Raymond G. Little, First-class Park Ranger, \$1200 per annum, effective May 24th.

Resignations: Park Ranger Chester B. Kelley, temporary, resigned, effective at the close of May 17th.

Leaves without pay: By authority, your office, dated June 4th, leave without pay from May 1st to September 15, 1919, inclusive, was granted to First-class Park Ranger Henry Anderson.

Vacancies: The following vacancies existed in our regular force at the close of May, 1919:

- 1 Chief Ranger
- 5 Park Rangers
- 1 Assistant Electrician
- 1 Assistant Buffalo Keeper.

Arrangements are being made with the Civil Service Commission to make permanent appointments to several positions now filled by temporary employees.

Purchase of War Savings Stamps: During May employees of this office purchased War Savings Stamps to the amount of \$16.64. X

#### ANIMALS, DOMESTIC.

The Taylor Fork Cattle Company of Grayling, Montana, was permitted to take 625 head of cattle through the park over the County road to Gallatin Valley May 21st and 22nd, and 600

milk cows with calves on June 4th to 6th.

#### GRAZING.

The grazing for wild animals was first-class, but the range is now beginning to dry up, due to lack of rain, and lack of snow in the mountains.

#### FOREST FIRES.

No forest fires occurred during the month.

#### FISH.

Fishing was good in many streams and was enjoyed by employees, residents of the park and vicinity, and the few tourists who came in who had the time to fish.

Mr. W. T. Thompson, Superintendent of the U. S. Fish Hatchery at Bozeman, Montana, brought in his party of assistants on May 28th, and took them to the Yellowstone Lake to begin summer operations gathering and eyeing eggs of the blackspotted trout for distribution. He also sent a small outfit under charge of one assistant to the small lake near Soda Butte Station, in the northwest corner of the park, to collect as many eggs as possible there.

Mr. Thompson furnished 30,000 Eastern brook trout fry from the Bozeman hatchery, which arrived on May 29th, and were planted under our supervision in Glen Creek and Lava Creek.

#### MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT.

Work accomplished in the way of improvements and construction, under direction of Civil Engineer Goodwin, during the month of May was approximately as follows:

(This data cannot be procured until a few days later, but will be transmitted to be inserted here as soon as possible.)

During the month the mechanics were engaged in overhauling and making repairs to auto trucks and road machinery. Some machinery was installed in the new garage and shop, and the work of wiring for lights and motors in the shop was carried on. The three mess wagons which were being constructed for use in the park were finished, and the work started on two auto truck sprinklers.

The crew which for the past month has been engaged in gravel surfacing the new road around the Gardiner slide completed that work the latter part of the month, and was transferred to other work out in the park.

Three crews consisting of about 12 men and 5 teams each were organized and started out on road repair and maintenance work in the park. The first crew started from Mammoth May 22nd and worked from that point to the Canyon and Lake Junction. The second crew, which left Mammoth May 27th, will work from Madison Junction to the east entrance. The third crew, which left Mammoth on the 29th inst., will work from Norris to the west entrance.

General office and engineering work was carried on, also the inspection and oversight of the contract work being done on the road in the Gardiner Canyon. The contractors, Gibbons and Reed Company, carried on work under their contract approved November 4, 1918, for the construction of a road through the Gardiner Canyon. About 12 teams and 30 men were engaged on this work until May 16th, at which time the job was completed. The quantities allotted in the estimates for the month, which are the final ones, consisted of 1,724 cu. yds. class 1 excavation, 1,166 cu. yds. class 2 excavation, 2,249 cu. yds. class 3 excavation, 13.26 cu. yds. reinforced concrete in culverts, 13.31 cu. yds. reinforced concrete and revetment walls, and 170 lineal feet of 24-inch culvert pipe installed.

The office engineering work for the month consisted principally of work incidental to the carrying on of the Gibbons and Reed contract. An estimate of the steel required in the proposed under-pass concrete bridge near Sylvan Pass was also gotten out.

The field at the northern entrance was plowed up, harrowed, and is being sowed to oats and grass seed, for raising hay. Two teams and drivers are also being employed at the Buffalo Farm, where about 100 acres of land is being harrowed and seeded to oats to be used for hay for the buffalo.

Much work in the way of policing and improvements was done by the ranger force during the month. This work consisted in building a snowshoe cabin on Maple Creek, by Rangers Purdy and Townsend of Riverside District, general policing up at the stations throughout the park, and at headquarters the rangers repaired the fence around the large pasture that confines the tame show herd of buffalo, and started and made good progress on the work of repairing the old quartermaster stables and sheds for use as a public automobile camp.

Improvements by concessioners: The Yellowstone Park Hotel Company had a few employees in the park making early preparations for the tourist season.

The Yellowstone Park Transportation Company had a number of mechanics at work throughout the month, overhauling its motor cars and hauling in coal and other supplies for the Hotel Company.

The Yellowstone Park Camping Company employed several carpenters, laborers, etc., and began extensive alterations and improvements at Mammoth Camp, under the general direction of Mr. Punchard. Heavier timbers were placed through the center of the main building to strengthen it, and this incidentally improved its appearance. A large cesspool was built to take care of the sewage from the camp. The fence designed by Mr. Punchard was placed so as to shield the service yard from the beautiful view from the back porch, the driveway east of the main building was discontinued, and the porte cochere removed. The lawn was plowed up and cultivated, preparatory to seeding to grass, and the driveway to the west entrance of the camp was laid out, graded, and graveled; and a gravel walk was constructed between the driveway and the rows of tents. This work is still in progress.

Mesdames A. K. Pryor and Elizabeth Trischman returned to the park from their winter stay in Los Angeles, on May 4th, and have been engaged in making slight repairs and improvements to their premises in preparation for the summer trade.

Mr. C. A. Hamilton began improvements to his store building at the Upper Basin.

#### MONIES TRANSMITTED.

The usual report of monies collected, due, transmitted, etc., together with money orders and check, totaling \$73.40, as called for in the reports on Forms 10-59 and 10-60, is inclosed. Please acknowledge receipt.



### NATURAL PHENOMENA.

No special changes were noted in the natural phenomena. The formations at Mammoth and Norris Basins seem to be a little less active than usual, which is probably due to the small amount of surface water present this spring.

### TRAVEL CONDITIONS.

The roads to Upper Basin, west entrance, and Soda Butte, were open for motor vehicles at the end of April, as previously reported. Ranger Wisdom from Lake Station went to the eastern entrance on May 16th, and reported most of the snow gone at that time, except for deep drifts through the pass. To this date four or five cars have come through, but they had difficulty in the pass, and had to pull their cars over about three hundred feet of deep snow-drifts by hand, on logs cut and laid on top of the snow for the purpose. The first two of these cars came over on June 3rd. A light truck went to the Canyon without any trouble on May 19th, and I visited the Canyon on May 21st with Mr. Goodwin, and we found the road dry practically all of the distance to Canyon and did not have to use chains.

Several crews are in the field, smoothing up the roads, which will be open and in fair condition by June 20th, the official opening date for the season.

The ice went out of Yellowstone Lake on May 23rd.

### VISITORS.

A total of 279 people registered at the park entrances during the month, of which 251 came in at Gardiner and 28 at Yellowstone, as shown by inclosed copy of the Chief Ranger's report of travel. Sixty-five automobiles entered, mostly local people on business or going fishing. No charge was made for entrance tickets, until June 1st.

Special Visitors: Mr. W. T. Judkins, Game Warden of the State of Wyoming, visited the park on May 20th to 23rd, and took away with him by express, crated, a 3-year-old buffalo bull from the tame herd, which had been donated to the State by the Service.

Mr. Al Love and Mr. Wagner, a friend of his, called on May 26th.

Mr. J. W. Farrell, Federal Explosive Inspector, for the



State of Montana, called on May 29th and 30th, with Mr. Joseph Swindlehurst and Mr. Chester Shaw, of Livingston, Montana, and made an overnight trip to Upper Basin for sightseeing and fishing.

Mr. M. P. Skinner and wife arrived May 29th for special work for the U. S. Biological Survey.

#### COMPLAINTS.

The only complaint recorded during the month was one by Mr. Thos. Sommerville, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce at Gardiner, Montana, made directly to you, protesting against the storage of TNT explosives in our powder houses about three-quarters of a mile from Gardiner. This complaint was the cause of the visit of Mr. Farroll, mentioned above. His report is probably on file with the Service.

#### WILD ANIMALS.

Many wild animals were seen during the month of May, and all were reported to be in fine condition. Forage for elk, deer, antelope, etc., was plentiful.

Elk: A few elk are still seen occasionally outside of the park on the north, but most of them have returned to the park.

Deer: A few deer still remain about the grounds at headquarters, and one or two fawns have been seen.

Buffalo, tame herd: The tame herd was maintained in the open, at the buffalo farm. Preparations have been made to repair the fences around the fields, as most of the posts have become rotten and break down frequently, and the wires become broken and bent. There are now 62 calves in this herd, and there are more to come. A fine 3-year-old bull was shipped to the State of Wyoming on May 24, 1919, under the direction of the State Game Warden, Mr. W. T. Judkins, who came here for the purpose. This shipment was made under authority of your letter of August 30, 1918. Mr. Judkins reported the arrival in excellent condition.

Antelope: The antelope have practically all gone back to the mountains.

Wolves and coyotes: These animals were not much in evidence during May, and none were reported killed.

#### PROTECTION AND CARE OF GAME.

All wild animals were thoroughly protected by extensive patrols throughout the month, and there were no evidences found of any poaching.

#### ARRESTS AND VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW.

No arrests were made, and no violation of law was reported during the month.

#### SANITATION AND DISINFECTION.

Considerable extra policing of grounds in the vicinity of buildings at headquarters was done during the month.

The case of scarlet fever in the family of Assistant Electrician Sweeney recovered, and the premises were thoroughly disinfected and the family released from quarantine.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Preparations were carried on as rapidly as possible during the month towards selection of temporary rangers for summer patrols, and arranging for proper uniforms for them, and for reorganization of the force on a summer basis.

Moving picture shows were held at headquarters weekly for the general amusement of park employees.

#### PROPOSED WORK FOR JUNE.

Continued maintenance and improvement work under the direction of Civil Engineer Goodwin.

General police of grounds throughout the park, especially in the vicinity of the points of interest where campers congregate.

Maintenance and repair of buildings, grounds, water and sewer systems, power plant, and telephone lines.

Special care of wild animals, keeping up patrols for fires, poachers, etc., repairs to ranger stations, auto checking, motorcycle patrols and regular summer work by the ranger force.

Completion of seeding of the fields at the northern entrance and at the buffalo farm, and watering the fields to insure a crop of hay.

Distribution of temporary rangers and reassignment of permanent rangers to summer stations, and instructing rangers in summer duties.

Very respectfully,

Chester A. Wisley.

Acting Superintendent.

CAL:ACW

Incl a.

June 20, 1919.

The Director,  
National Park Service,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Reference is made to note on the bottom of page 20  
of the monthly report for May.

There is inclosed herewith sheet outlining the work  
done during May on construction and improvements, under the  
direction of Mr. Goodwin.

Very respectfully,

Chester A. Lindsley,

Acting Superintendent.

ACW

1 Incl. in duplicate.